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Canada Student Group Urges Protest of CIA Intrusion

But Pearson Disagrees, Tells Commons
Official Action Isn't Warranted

By RON COLLISTER

Buffalo Evening News Bureau

OTTAWA, Feb. 21—The Canadian Union of Students today called on the government to protest the "covert intrusion" by the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency into Canadian student groups.

It also demanded an assurance that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is not involved in similar operations.

The action of the students follows disclosures that the CIA has used foundations to channel millions of dollars to students, business and journalist groups around the world.

The Canadian students group says that a prime "front" for the CIA operations is the Foundation for Youth & Student Affairs of New York City.

Pearson Disagrees

A check of the past financial records of the CUS has revealed that this "front" has contributed at least twice to CUS-sponsored seminars on international student affairs in Canada.

But Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson told the House of Commons Monday that the government did not feel an official protest to the U. S. was warranted.

Mr. Pearson said the government had no information that the CIA donated through the youth foundation two \$1500 grants that helped set up the two seminars in 1965 and 1966.

This foundation was ap-

proached, as were many other prospective contributors, during the substantial fund-raising campaign which preceded each of the seminars," the CUS reported today.

On no occasion did the officers or employees of the CUS have reason to believe that this foundation was anything but a private philanthropic organization, CUS President Douglas Ward said, adding:

Poses Growing Influence

"It goes without saying, then, that to our knowledge, there have been no direct contacts between our union and CIA operatives."

The CUS says it is "deeply distressed" by the disclosure that ostensibly private philanthropic agencies are actually "tools of the U. S. intelligence network."

"We are even more deeply concerned that these front organizations could be used to compromise the integrity of private Canadian organizations in the youth and student field."

The CIA, the CUS claimed, had not influenced the content of the Canadian-sponsored seminars.

"The problem," it added, "lies in the growing influence which could be exerted—especially in youth and student affairs where finances are seriously limited—by an organization with much available cash and hidden purposes."